

Remarks

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 23, 2007, in this application. A request for a one-month extension-of-time accompanies this Amendment. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claim 4 has been canceled. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 14-16 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 691 113 A1("Collyer"); claims 4, 17-18 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Collyer; claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Collyer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,566,575 ("Stickels, et al."); claims 7-10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Collyer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,552,244 ("Jacques, et al."); claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Collyer in view of 6,700,034 ("Lindsay, et al."); and claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Collyer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,447,492 ("Cartmell, et al."). Applicants traverse all these rejections.

Each of the rejections is based in whole or in part on Collyer. To the limited extent that Collyer includes a slit, the slit is described on page 6, lines 5-6, in the description of Figs. 9 and 10: "Fig. 9 shows a standard cross-cut, and Fig. 10 shows a cross-cut with hole, formed in a dressing of the kind shown in Fig. 1." There is no suggestion to alter the slit of Collyer for any reason or that a curved slit would provide a better seal, enhancing conformability and reducing the risk for leakage and infection.

According to the comments in the Office Action, the shape of the slits isn't critical. However, there is no basis given for this comment. Without hindsight, applicants submit there would be no reason to modify the slits of Collyer.

None of the other documents overcomes the deficiencies of Collyer. Accordingly, Applicants request that these rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof with claims 1-3 and 5-22 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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